

Message Text

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61

ACTION EA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6264

E. O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: VISIT OF INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ADAM

MALIK TO AUSTRALIA

REF: CANBERRA 6163

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: OFFICIAL VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY
INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK, NOV 6-10 FOLLOWED
BY VISIT TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA, NOV 11-14 LEFT BOTH
INDONESIANS AND AUSTRALIANS PLEASED WITH OUTCOME.
ALREADY-NEGOTIATED SEABED BOUNDARY AGREEMENTS AND
NEW GUINEA BORDER REGIME AGREEMENT SIGNED. INDO-
NESIANS APPEAR TO HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT FUTURE
COURSE OF AUSTRALIAN LABOR GOVERNMENT, AND RELATIONS
MAY BE CHARACTERIZED AS FRIENDLY BUT NOT PARTICULARLY
CLOSE OR INTIMATE. END SUMMARY.

2. VISIT OF INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ADAM MALIK
TO AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 6-10, FOLLOWED BY VISIT TO
PAPUA NEW GUINEA, NOVEMBER 11-14, CONTINUED SERIES
OF HIGH-LEVEL INDONESIAN-AUSTRALIAN CONTACTS.

3. MALIK VISIT AND MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER
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WHITLAM AND MINISTER FOR FRIEGN AFFAIRS, SENATOR

D.R. WILLESSEE, PARALLELED TALKS BETWEEN SENIOR OFFICIALS OF TWO COUNTRIES IN CANBERRA, NOV 6-7. AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION LED BY SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SIR KEITH WALLER, AND INDONESIAN DELEGATION LED BY DJAJADININGRAT, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN INDONESIAN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF NOV 16, JOHN LAVETT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, SOUTH EAST ASIA BRANCH, DFA, ONE OF AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPANTS IN OFFICIAL TALKS, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH DISCUSSIONS, WHICH HAD INCLUDED GENERAL REVIEW OF SITUATION IN EAST ASIA. LAVETT SAID THAT MALIK HAD MADE IT QUITE CLEAR TO PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM THAT INDONESIA

CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF GCMER REPUBLIC.

4. REVIEWING VISIT WITH EMBOFF NOV 13 R.MR. WIJARTO, MINISTER COUNSELOR (PRESS AND INFORMATION) OF INDONESIAN EMBASSY IN CANBERRA, SAID THAT THERE WAS NOT MUCH REAL SUBSTANCE IN EITHER OFFICIAL LEVEL OR MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, WITH LITTLE MORE THAN COMMON-PLACES EXCHANGED. WIJARTO ADDED THAT AT END OF MEETING BETWEEN MALIK AND INDONESIAN EMBASSY STAFF, LABOR GOVERNMENT MAY BE CONSIDERED TO BE MARXIST-ORIENTED AND THAT THE FRIENDLY ATTITUDE AUSTRALIA DISPLAYS TODAY MAY NOT ALWAYS BE ATTITUDE LABOR GOVERNMENT WILL SHOW TOWARDS INDONESIA. WIJARTO NOTED THAT TWO AGREEMENTS ON SEABED BOUNDARY BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA HAD BEEN SIGNED AND THAT AN AGREEMENT ON THE BORDER REGIME BETWEEN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE INDONESIAN PROVINCE OF IRAN JAYA HAD ALSO BEEN SIGNED. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT THE SEABED BOUNDARIES HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED UP TO TWO YEARS AGO AND THAT THE BORDER REGIME AGREEMENT HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED IN JAKARTA IN SEPTEMBER. WIJARTO SAID THAT THE AGREEMENTS ARE USEFUL BUT ARE NOT PARTICULARLY NEW.

5. MALIK VISIT WAS MARKED BY SOMEWHAT NEBULOUS REFERENCES BY MALIK TO A NEW SUB-REGIONAL GROUP IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SOUTH PACIFIC, OF WHICH INDONESIA MIGHT BE A MEMBER. SEEMS CLEAR THAT THIS BODY WILL NOT BE FORMED IN NEAR FUTURE.

6. COMMENT: INDONESIA AND AUSTRALIA HAVE RESOLVED ALL POTENTIALLY CONTENTIOUS ISSUES OUTSTANDING BETWEEN THEM AND, THROUGH REGULAR OFFICIAL AND MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETINGS, HAVE A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH

FUTURE PROBLEMS CAN BE RESOLVED. HOWEVER, AS
REFLECTED BY INDONESIAN EMBASSY IN CANBERRA, THIS
IS NOT A PARTICULARLY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP. MALIK
REFERENCE TO LABOR GOVERNMENT AS ULTIMATELY MARXIST
IN OUTLOOK SEEMS RATHER EXAGGERATED, BUT INDONESIAN
EMBASSY IS SENSITIVE TO IMPACT LEFTIST ACADEMICS IN
MELBOURNE SUCH AS J.S. LEGGE AND HERBERT FEITH
HAVE ON LABOR GOVERNMENT. AS LEGGE AND FEITH MAKE
NO SECRET OF THEIR HOSTILITY TO SOEHARTO GOVERNMENT,
INDONESIAN EMBASSY CLEARLY ASSUMES THAT ONE DAY THIS
HOSTILITY WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO AND REFLECTED BY
LABOR GOVERNMENT..
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